the characteristic D-shaped exit holes of *Agrilus pannonicus* (Piller & Mitterpacher). The beetle must have been sheltering on the rough bark.

Saprosites species (Scarabaeidae), a dead specimen from the same oak tree in Cox's Walk, 10.vi.2002. Although previously identified as *Saprosites mendax* Blackburn, it is likely that London specimens of this genus are attributable to another species (R. Angus, pers. comm.). This species appears to be spreading and is frequent, flying, in my garden in East Dulwich two kilometres away.

Aderus oculatus (Paykul) (Aderidae), many specimens from the side/underside of a large dusty cobweb-encrusted log, probably oak, Downham Woodland Walk, (TQ3972, VC16, West Kent), 19.vi.2002, 2.vii.2002.

Silvanus unidentatus (Fab.) (Silvanidae), one specimen from the leaf litter beneath a small log, probably oak, Dulwich Wood (TQ342724, VC17, Surrey), 21.v.2002. Turning the log revealed very few insects on its underside, but this specimen was sucked up from the leaf litter beneath.– Richard A. Jones, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ (E-mail: bugmanjones@hotmail.com).

Agrodiaetus nephohiptamenos Brown & Coutsis (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in North Greece

On 8 August 200, at 11.30 hours, male *Agrodiaetus nephohiptamenos* Brown & Coutsis, 1978 (*Ent. Gaz.* **29**: 201-213) were observed at 1500 metres above sea level on the main ski-lift road up to Mount Falakron, near Drama, North Greece. They were attracted in some numbers with other lycaenids (such as *Lysandra philippi* Brown & Coutsis) to areas of wet mud beside the road. The butterflies were pumping up moisture through their uncoiled probosces, and this activity was assisted by a rhythmic circling action of their hind-wings.

At about 1600 metres up a sub-alpine grass gully, a few female *A. nephohiptamenos* were observed nectaring at white *Scabious* flowers. However, a concentration of male and female *A. nephohiptamenos* was found at between 1800-1900 metres on the top of a rounded peak of the mountain well above the tree-line and ski-centre plateau. Males appeared to be less common that females here. In this area, the course, fine-bladed grass had been moderately grazed by cattle and there were bare patches of stony soil. It was dry and sunny with a cool breeze and occasional clouds passing over. A flock of yellow-billed choughs was milling around the mountain top, and meadow pipits and wheatears were present. There was a hazy view over the plains to the south. A few male *Erebia melas* Herbst. were flying further down the slope. All in all, it was a good place to be.

The *A. nephohiptamenos* butterflies were highly active in the sunshine, but quickly became torpid when cloud obscured the sun. The males spent most of the time on the wing, flying rapidly with frequent changes of direction. Generally, the female *A. nephohiptamenos* were more sedentary that the males and engaged in a number of activities, which included nectaring at a range of flowers and flying rapidly close to the ground in search of larval food plants. One male approached a female that was resting on a grass stem. The female partially opened its wings. The male rapidly fluttered its wings and then both flew up high in a courtship flight.

They came back to land in the grass and then mated. Another female was observed being pursued by two males and a third was seen rejecting a male by raising its abdomen vertically above its wings. Other pairs were seen mating. One female narrowly avoided being caught on the wing by robber fly (Asilidae).

Two females were observed laying pale green-blue eggs singly on pink-flowered Mountain Sainfoin *Onobrychis montana*. The first oviposition was observed at 14.45 hours, in bright sunshine. After testing the plant in several places with the end of her curving abdomen, the butterfly placed the egg on the upper side of an *O. montana* basal leaf. A second female was observed laying an egg on the stem of an *O. montana* plant in a bract below a single seed pod (generally there is a cluster of terminal seedpods in *O. montana*). Closer inspection of the plant, once the butterfly had left, revealed that there was already an *A. nephohiptamenos* egg near the seedpod. Other females were seen testing potential food plants with the tips of their abdomens, but they did not lay eggs.

At 16.00 hours, it became cloudier and the butterflies became inclined to rest on plants and open their wings to catch the sunshine. At 17.00 hours, it began to thunder and spots of rain to fall. The butterflies became inactive and disappeared from view, but a fourth *A. nephohiptamenos* egg was found on the calyx of a lower flower of an *O. montana* inflorescence. The four eggs were collected, but none of them hatched.
– ANDREW WAKEHAM-DAWSON, Mill Laine Farm, Offham, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3QB and TED BENTON, 13 Priory Close, Colchester, Essex CO1 2PY.

Kissiter minimus (Aubé) (Col.: Histeridae) from a tree cavity in East Suffolk

In the course of collecting on the edge of Martin's Glen at Great Martin's Hill Wood, Bentley (O. S. grid reference TM 1036) on 5 June 2001, I came across an old, living Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* with most of the interior at the base of one side of the trunk occupied by a large cavity. Sieving the approximately 12 centimetre depth of damp, rotten wood and loamy soil inside this produced single examples of *Mycetaea hirta* (Marsham), *Olophrum piceum* (Gyllenhal), *Othius myrmecophilus* Kiesenwetter and a small histerid, which from the habitat, I assumed to be the locally common *Abraeus globosus* (Hoffman). As the rare, other British member of the genus, *granulum* Erichson, is not known from the county, I retained the beetle.

Upon examining it under the microscope, I was surprised to find that it was *Kissiter minimus*, a beetle I would normally expect to find under stones and detritus in sandy places and at the roots of grass and Sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*. *Mycetea* turns up commonly in damp, fungoidal tree cavities and I would expect the two staphylinids to occur in damp leaf litter, moss etc. in woodland such as this, so the discovery of these in this microhabitat is no surprise. The presence of the histerid is more enigmatic as the cavity did not extend externally to ground level so it must have deliberately crawled or flown in. I have never found the beetle under bark, but Vienna (1980, *Fauna d'Italia*: **XVI**, Histeridae, p. 208) cites the beetle as occurring in this situation as well as in humus, either or both of which may have attracted the beetle in this case. It would be interesting to know if other British coleopterists have taken *Kissiter* under bark, in association with tree cavities or in other atypical situations– DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.